

## **NORTH PACIFIC RIGHT WHALE SURVEY 2002: LEG 1 - GULF OF ALASKA TRANSIT**

We left Seattle late Tuesday afternoon, July 2. The ship's sailing had been delayed about a day and a half by engineering parts. As a consequence, Leg 1 was extended an extra day, and we will arrive in Kodiak on the afternoon of July 8. The ship was very accommodating in getting the new acoustic winch hooked up and all the other systems operational for our departure. Thanks are also due for Jim Cotton and Jason Appler who set up things prior to the arrival of most of us.

We had a fantastic initial survey day starting at the mouth of the Straights and proceeding off to slope waters of British Columbia. It was a 41-sighting day, with lots of Dall's porpoise and some sperm whales and humpback whales. We made the very difficult decision not to launch on these whales. We have about 10 hours of operational time for small boat work, and we decided to spend it in more remote locations. Yesterday, we had even more sightings (60 in one day). Again, it was mostly Dall's porpoises, but we also had fin and sei whales. We've been in passing mode, except to ID the sei whale. The weather has been fantastic, for the Gulf of Alaska. We've had mostly Beauf 2-4 with frequent sunshine. We even had a fantail BBQ on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July (probably warmer than any during ORCAWALE). Today (Friday) is mostly overcast and Beauf 4, but the ship is riding beautifully. And, best of all, we are seeing puffins!

Technology has been our main gremlin on this cruise. We lost a keyboard on our main laptop computer on the flying bridge, and the floppy drive didn't work on our backup computer. The acousticians found more than their usual share of software and hardware gremlins. The new hydrophone array (built by Jay) worked wonderfully at first, but then the second element went into death spasms, and the oscillations were messing with the signals from the other two elements. We have found a work-around for that problem, but the localization software still doesn't seem to be working at 100%. We hope to have that de-bugged soon.

| Date   | Begin/End<br>time | position             | Transect<br>miles | Avg.<br>Beauf |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 070302 | 0806              | N48:28.06 W124:36.27 | 135.5nmi          | 2.6           |
|        | 2104              | N49:21.06 W127:50.39 |                   |               |
| 070402 | 0603              | N50:05.03 W129:47.58 | 156.9nmi          | 3.0           |
|        | 2134              | N51:51.21 W133:14.35 |                   |               |

| Code | Species                     | Tot# |
|------|-----------------------------|------|
| 22   | Pacific white-sided dolphin | 3    |
| 40   | harbor porpoise             | 1    |
| 44   | Dall's porpoise             | 51   |
| 46   | sperm whale                 | 2    |
| 49   | unidentified beaked whale   | 1    |
| 73   | sei whale                   | 1    |
| 74   | fin whale                   | 2    |
| 76   | humpback whale              | 9    |
| 77   | unidentified delphinoid     | 5    |
| 79   | unidentified large whale    | 13   |
| CU   | northern fur seal           | 6    |
| MA   | northern elephant seal      | 1    |
| PU   | unidentified pinniped       | 2    |
| UO   | unidentified otariid        | 3    |
|      | OTHER                       | 3    |
|      | TOTAL                       | 103  |